

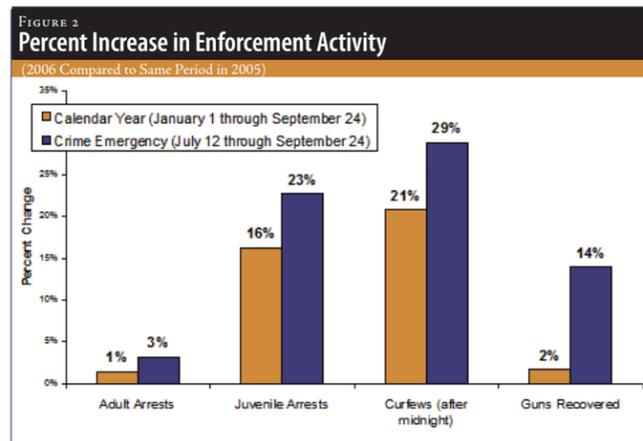
## THE RESPONSE

The MPD instituted a number of immediate changes to address the crime emergency.

- ✦ All sworn members were put on a 6-day work week, adding several hundred additional officers on the street at night.
- ✦ Each Police Service Area (PSA) held an emergency meeting to ask for community assistance in the effort.
- ✦ MPD developed Public Service Announcements reminding young people and their parents about the city's curfew.
- ✦ MPD worked with the Office of the Attorney General and the US Attorney's Office to immediately implement provisions of Mayor Williams' Omnibus Public Safety Amendment Act, the broadest public safety legislation of the Mayor's tenure. With Councilmember Phil Mendelson's backing, the Council passed an emergency version on July 11th to ensure the new laws would be in force over the summer.

Chief Ramsey and Mayor Williams also called on city and federal partners to pledge their support for the crime emergency.

- ✦ On July 14th, Chief Ramsey met with city and federal agencies to ask them to take specific steps to help reverse the rise in violent crime. Two dozen agencies gathered, committing to focus resources on issues having an immediate impact on crime, including environmental factors (e.g., lighting, abandoned vehicles), enforcement, investigation, and prosecution.
- ✦ At the request of Mayor Williams, Council Chair Linda Cropp called the DC Council into an emergency legislative session to consider — and ultimately approve — the Mayor's package of legislative proposals aimed at reversing the spike in crime.



➔ **Stepped up enforcement:** with officers working six days a week and federal partners dedicating resources to targeted joint enforcement efforts, MPD has been able to increase enforcement activity.

## ADDITIONAL MEASURES

The crime emergency plan includes other measures that are more difficult to evaluate in such a short time frame, but which should be part of any comprehensive effort to reduce crime. For example, the plan provides additional funding for youth anti-violence programs, mediation efforts and increased recreational opportunities. The legislation also includes important criminal justice reforms that make it harder for violent suspects to get back on the street and that ease bureaucratic red tape in the sharing of critical information among agencies about certain serious juvenile offenders.

Sharing limited, but critical information about some of the most serious juvenile offenders is vitally important, especially as our government redoubles its efforts to intervene in the lives of our young people and prevent them from becoming career criminals as adults. In recent weeks, we have been developing the systems and procedures to ensure a smooth and timely flow of information among agencies, in a manner that protects confidentiality. We hope to fully implement this system in the near future. Keeping this element of the emergency legislation is essential if we are to fully develop and use these procedures and evaluate their effectiveness in addressing juvenile crime.

## A SURVEY OF ANC COMMISSIONERS

Below are the full results of a survey conducted of ANC commissioners after the initial installation of the District's CCTV cameras.

1. How much safer do you feel with the CCTV cameras in your single member district?
  - ★ A lot safer – 71%
  - ★ A little safer – 21%
  - ★ No difference – 7%
  - ★ A little less safe – 0%
  - ★ A lot less safe – 0%
2. To what degree do you agree with the following statement: "CCTV cameras will help prevent crime in the District of Columbia."
  - ★ Strongly agree – 79%
  - ★ Somewhat agree – 14%
  - ★ Disagree – 7%
  - ★ Strongly disagree – 0%
3. Would you like to have additional CCTV cameras installed in your single member district?
  - ★ Yes – 93%
  - ★ No – 7%
  - ★ No preference – 0%
4. Have you heard any feedback from citizens living in areas where CCTV cameras are installed?
  - ★ Yes – 93%
  - ★ No – 7%
5. Has the citizens' feedback been:
  - ★ Very Positive – 77%
  - ★ Somewhat Positive – 23%
  - ★ Somewhat Negative – 0%
  - ★ Very Negative – 0%



Metropolitan Police Department  
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# Impact of the 2006 Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia

## FROM THE CHIEF

On July 11, 2006, I declared a "crime emergency" in the District of Columbia in order to enhance police visibility and combat neighborhood crime.

With support from Mayor Anthony Williams, the DC Council, local and federal government agencies, and residents and community groups throughout the District, the dedicated men and women of MPD have worked to reverse the spike in crime that led to my declaration. Over the past 11 weeks, homicides have dropped 24 percent, robbery, 23 percent, and violent crime 15 percent in comparison to the same period last year. (See FIGURE 1) Preliminary evaluations of some of the elements of the crime emergency indicate that they have played a role in these significant results. Highlights of these analyses are presented here, and will be expanded upon in the coming months.

Though we have achieved a measure of success during the crime emergency, there is still far too much violence in our neighborhoods. We must continue to use effective tools to reduce that violence now, while vigorously pursuing the long-term solutions that will lead to a sustainable peace in our city.

★★★  
Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor

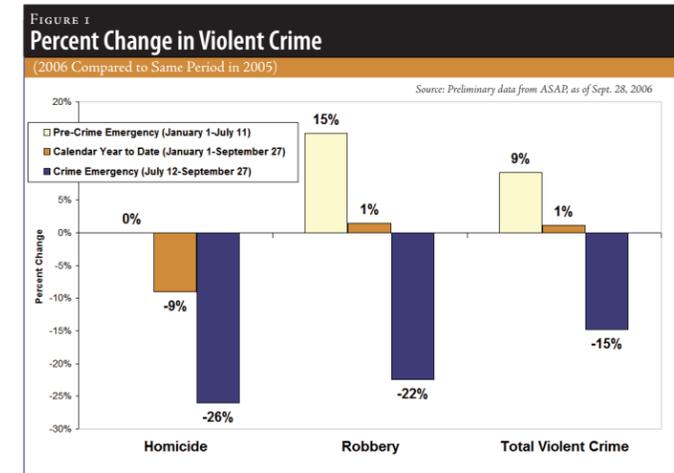
Charles H. Ramsey  
Chief of Police

## THE DECLARATION

Declaring a crime emergency enabled Chief Ramsey to suspend some scheduling provisions in the city's contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, providing commanders with the flexibility to immediately adjust schedules to put more officers where and when they were needed most. This flexibility was needed to confront a sharp escalation of crime in the previous 30 days, including an 18 percent increase in robberies and 14 homicides in the first 11 days of July.

Though the city had less crime in 2005 than in any year since the 1960s, the spike was an acceleration of a disturbing trend — a gradual increase in violent crime over the year, due primarily to a 14 percent increase in robberies in 2006 when compared to the same period in 2005.

Equally troubling was a pronounced increase in juvenile involvement in crime. By July 11th, the number of juvenile arrests in 2006 was 14 percent higher than the same period in 2005, with an 82 percent jump for robbery arrests, and 27 percent for weapons violations. A quick response by MPD was needed to ensure that important gains in public safety were not lost.



➔ **Making a difference:** Prior to the declaration of a Crime Emergency, the city saw a 9% spike in violent crime, including 15% rise in robberies over the previous year. Robberies dropped by 22% after July 11, the date of the declaration. Homicides have been curtailed by 26%.

## REVERSING THE SPIKE IN VIOLENT CRIME

The crime emergency has helped to reverse the spike in crime — in particular the spike in violent crime — that prompted the emergency declaration in the first place. For example, homicides rose steadily from April of this year, peaking during the first half of July. Since then, the number of homicides has plummeted — declining 46 percent between July and August. In September, homicides have stabilized well below the number recorded last year.

Perhaps even more telling is the recent trend with respect to robbery, which is a crime, usually on the public space, that provokes a great deal of fear among residents. As such, robbery is a good indicator of violence on our neighborhood streets. Prior to the crime emergency, robberies were running 15 percent ahead of last year's total. Since the crime emergency, robberies have been reduced by about 23 percent, and are now running only about one

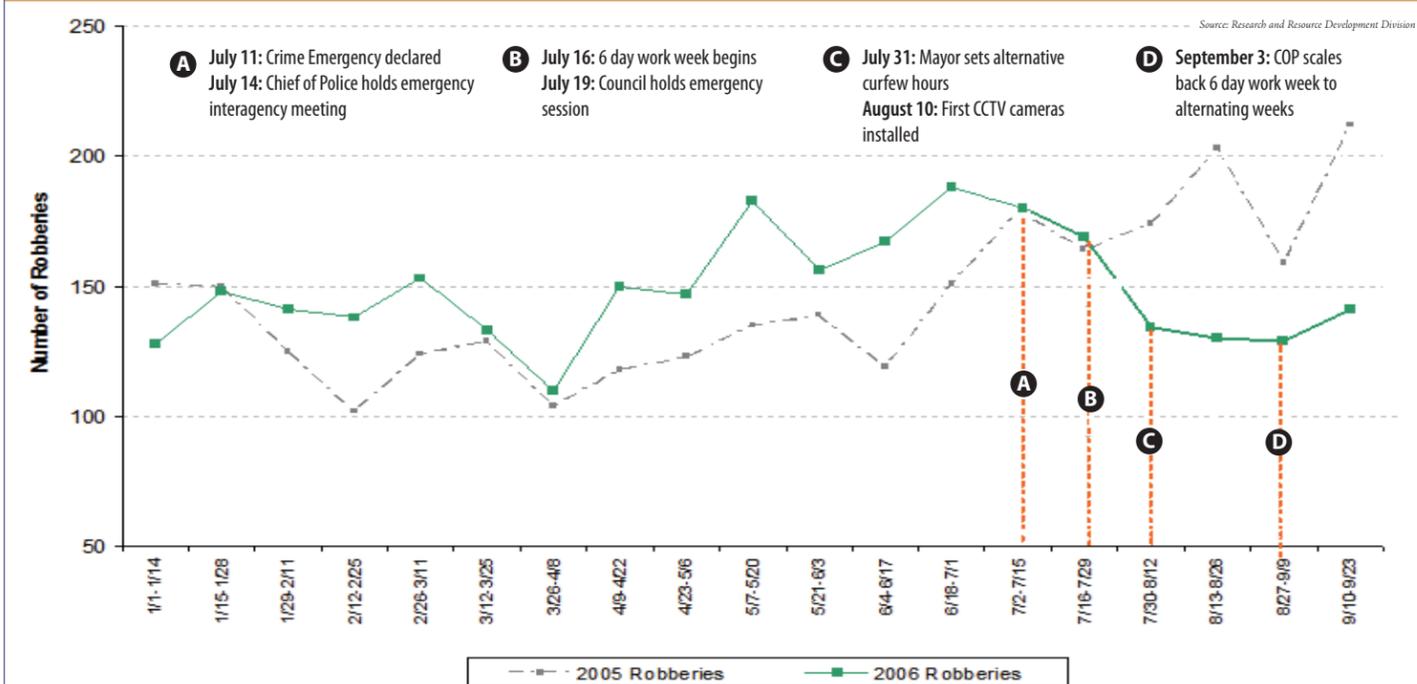


➔ Though the number of homicides in DC usually varies greatly from month to month, the 14 homicides together in the first 11 days of July were an alarming and tragic spike in lethal violence. Since July 11, the trend dropped dramatically and reached a plateau in mid-August.

percent above last year. Robberies declined by 25 percent between July and August alone, meaning that there were 100 fewer victims in August.

FIGURE 4 Robbery Reduction: The Decline of Street Violence During the District's Crime Emergency

(2006 Compared to Same Period in 2005)



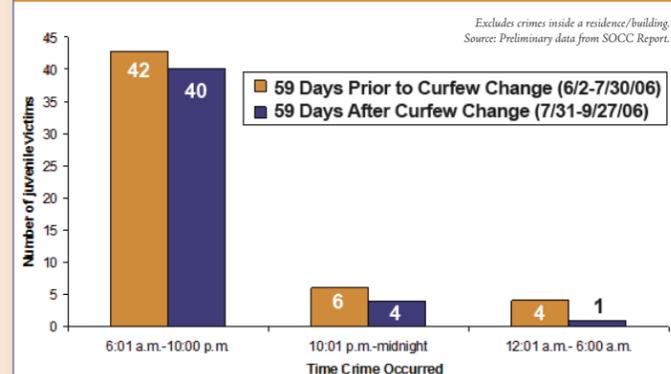
➔ Taking on street crime: The number of robberies began to drop when the crime emergency was declared, and has since stayed at a level far below last year at this time — and below the level we would have likely seen had the crime emergency not been implemented.

## THE IMPACT OF THE JUVENILE CURFEW

In late July, the Mayor exercised the authority granted under the emergency legislation and set the curfew from 10 pm to 6 am, seven days a week.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the number of curfew citations issued by the MPD, which was already higher than last year, has skyrocketed. However, MPD's goal was not to keep our curfew centers busy, but rather to keep DC's youth off the streets so that they will be safer and less likely to become victims of or involved in delinquent or criminal activity. Early data indicate that the earlier curfew is making a difference in promoting the safety of our young people. For example, the number of curfew-age victims of violent crime on public space during the 10 pm-to-6 am time period declined 50 percent when comparing the pre- and post- time periods. Similarly, the number of curfew-age juveniles arrested for crimes committed during the curfew hours plunged 43 percent.

FIGURE 5 Number of Curfew-Age Victims on Public Space

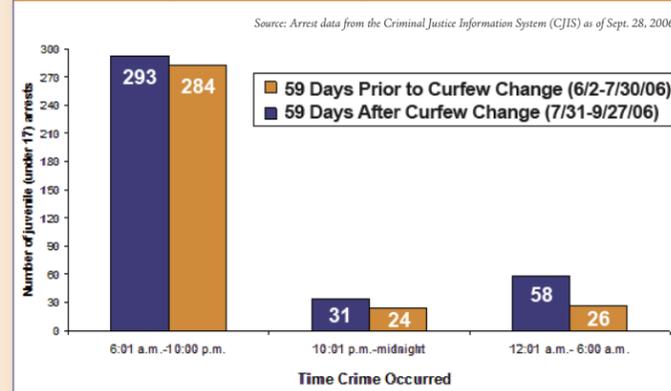
(During the Specified Period, by Time of Crime)



➔ Fewer juvenile victims of violent crime: The number of juvenile (under 17) victims of violent crime on public space has decreased 13 percent overall. The number during curfew hours has dropped 50 percent, compared to a 5% decrease during the rest of the day.

FIGURE 6 Number of Curfew-Age Offenders Arrested

(Occurring During the Specified Period, by Time of Crime)



➔ Fewer juveniles committing crimes: Arrests of juveniles under 17 for crimes committed during curfew hours have decreased 43%, compared to only a 3% decrease for crime occurring during the rest of the day. Overall, arrests of juveniles under age 17 have decreased 12%.

## CCTV

The emergency legislative package authorized MPD to use Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to combat crime in the neighborhoods for the first time. Working closely with the Office of Contracting and Procurement, and with full and active support of the DC Department of Transportation, MPD procured a contract for and installed 48 cameras throughout the city in just 11 weeks. Though based on a very limited, preliminary analysis, the initial impact of the cameras on crime and public perception of safety is impressive. Looking just at locations for cameras installed in August, violent crime decreased 73 percent when compared to the same period in 2005. Over the same time, property crime decreased 57 percent, leading to a 64 percent overall drop in serious crime.

Though MPD is pleased to see such dramatic initial results, we recognize that this is still a very preliminary analysis.<sup>2</sup> In the coming months, the analysis will be refined and expanded, encompassing cameras installed in September and looking at additional issues, such as possible crime displacement.

In addition, MPD conducted a brief survey of the ANC commissioners representing those locations where cameras were installed in August.<sup>3</sup> The results show that these community representatives feel safer with cameras in their neighborhoods, believe that CCTV cameras will help prevent crime in DC, and want additional cameras in their neighborhoods.

- ✦ 71% of the respondents feel a lot safer with the CCTV camera in their neighborhood; another 21% feel a little safer.
  - ✦ 79% strongly agree that CCTV cameras will help prevent crime in DC; 14% agree somewhat with the statement.
  - ✦ All but one respondent had heard positive feedback from residents living in the areas with CCTV cameras. 77% reported very positive feedback.
  - ✦ All but one of the respondents would like to have more CCTV cameras in their neighborhood.
- (Please see the rear panel for the detailed findings from the ANC survey).

<sup>1</sup>Under normal conditions, the curfew begins at 12 midnight during the summer, and at 11 pm on school nights during the rest of the year.

<sup>2</sup>The comparison of crime is based on preliminary DC Index crime data which do not reflect official Part I crime totals as reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. The preliminary statistics are subject to change for a variety of reasons, including late reporting, reclassification of some offenses, and discovery that some offenses were unfounded. In order to evaluate sufficient data, the review was limited to cameras that were installed in August. Even so, this is based on only two to five weeks of data for each camera (from installation date through September 16).

<sup>3</sup>The results are based on 14 responses out of calls to 21 ANC commissioners. MPD will continue to follow-up to try to get full participation in the survey.

